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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR *h/d*

Date: 10/12/80

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Dear Mr. Bonker:

I am responding to your letter of September 22 to Secretary Muskie concerning Jan Kaplan who was imprisoned by Soviet authorities shortly after he reported the possibility that Swedish Diplomat Raoul Wallenberg might still be alive in a Soviet prison.

We have been following the case of Jan Kaplan as closely as we can. As you are aware, we deplore all violations of the rights of freedom of expression, freedom of thought and freedom to emigrate as well as all the other human rights we hold dear. We have made our position on this clear to Soviet authorities on numerous occasions. Regrettably, they continue to maintain that the Wallenberg matter is closed and that Jan Kaplan's case is a purely internal Soviet matter. Our ability to influence their conduct in such cases is therefore extremely limited, particularly in the current state of heightened U.S.-Soviet bilateral tensions. We shall continue to make our position known to the Soviets on violations of basic human rights and to seek in any way we can to alleviate the plight of those in the Soviet Union who suffer for their attempts to exercise these basic human rights.

You may be interested to know that our most recent efforts to confirm reports about Wallenberg through interviews with Soviet dissidents and emigres have again failed to produce any information to support the possibility that Wallenberg might still be alive.

Sincerely,

A. Brian Atwood
Assistant Secretary for
International Relations

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Mr. Bonker:
Mr. Atwood,
Mr. Barry

Office of International Relations,
Department of State